

CLAIM AMENDMENTS: DISCUSSION

Claims 47 and 59, formerly dependent claims, have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims. These amendments do not constitute new matter, nor do they alter the scope of claims 47 and 59.

Claim 56 has been amended to depend from claim 55, rather than claim 54, correcting an obvious error.

Claim 60 has been amended to correct an error identified by the Examiner. This amendment does not constitute new matter.

REMARKS

These remarks will respond to the rejections of the Office Action of December 16, 2005. Section A details the status of the claims. Section B responds to the drawing objections of the December 16 Action. Sections C and D respond to the rejections in the order they appeared in the Action. Section E addresses allowable subject matter.

A. Status of Claims:

Claims 41-63 were pending in the application. Claims 41-46, 48-54, and 58 are cancelled in this response. Claims 55-57 are allowed. Claims 48 and 59 are considered allowable, but objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims. Claims 60-63 were rejected under 35 USC 112.

B. Drawing Objections

The Examiner objected to the drawings on the grounds that the “third rail-stacks including conductors shared by the first and second cells” of claim 60 must be shown in the drawings, or the features cancelled from the claims. The Examiner has identified an error in claim 60; the “third rail-stacks” the Examiner refers to should in fact be “second rail-stacks”. Claim 60 has been amended accordingly. Applicant appreciates the identification of this error and believes this claim amendment to claim 60 addresses the Examiner’s drawing objection.

C. 35 USC 112 Rejection: Claims 60-63

Claims 60-63 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

As noted in Section B, the Examiner has correctly identified an error in claim 60, which has been amended in this response.

D. 35 USC 102 Rejection: Claims 41-46, 48-54, and 58

Claims 41-46, 48-54, and 58 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e). These claims have been cancelled.

E. Allowable Subject Matter

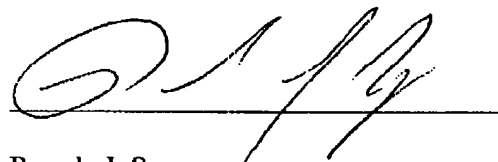
Claims 55-57 were allowed. Claims 47 and 59 were rejected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claims 47 and 59 have been amended accordingly. Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. **If any objections or rejections remain, Applicant respectfully requests an interview to discuss the references.** If the Examiner has any questions, he is asked to contact the undersigned agent at (408) 869-2921.

May 8, 2006

Date



Pamela J. Squyres
Agent for Applicant
Reg. No. 52246

SanDisk Corporation
3230 Scott Blvd
Santa Clara, CA 95054
Tel. 408-869-2921